

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Original) A composition comprising a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

10. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.

11. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.

12. (Original) The composition of Claim 9, further comprising primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.

13. (Original) A kit for the amplification of a target nucleic acid comprising an instruction manual, a target nucleic acid and a control nucleic acid wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length

essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

14. (Original) The kit of Claim 13, further comprising primers for the amplification of said target nucleic acid and primers for the amplification of said control nucleic acid.

15-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein the target nucleic acid is a DNA molecule.

21. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein the target nucleic acid is an RNA molecule.

22. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 10 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

23. (New) The composition of claim 9, further comprising a thermostable DNA polymerase.

24. (New) The composition of claim 10, further comprising a primer that binds to the primer binding site.

25. (New) The composition of claim 11, further comprising a probe that binds to the probe binding site.

26. (New) The kit of claim 13, wherein the target nucleic acid is a DNA molecule.

27. (New) The kit of claim 13, wherein the target nucleic acid is an RNA molecule.

28. (New) The kit of claim 13, wherein said control nucleic acid comprises at least one contiguous sequence of at least 10 nucleotides in length essentially parallel complementary to said target nucleic acid region or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid region.

29. (New) The kit of claim 13, further comprising a thermostable DNA polymerase.

30. (New) The kit of claim 13, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a primer binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the primer binding site of said target nucleic acid or to the complementary strand of said target nucleic acid.

31. (New) The kit of claim 30, further comprising a primer that binds to the primer binding site of the target nucleic acid.

32. (New) The kit of claim 13, wherein said target nucleic acid comprises a probe binding site and said control nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is parallel complementary to the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid or the complementary strand of the probe binding site of said target nucleic acid.

33. (New) The kit of claim 32, further comprising a probe that binds to the probe binding site of the target nucleic acid.